

# CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



## August 2017

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## FROM THE FIELD

### FEMA Corps Supports Preparedness in D.C.

FEMA Corps is a full-time, team-based 10-month residential program for people ages 18–24. Members work alongside FEMA staff all over the country helping with disaster relief, working in FEMA local, regional and headquarters offices, or working with partner organizations, such as the American Red Cross.

Members benefit from a variety of professional work and life experiences during their three project rounds, which take place anywhere in the United States or territories.



*FEMA's Bethany Jones met with Ocean 2 Corps members.*

This summer, four FEMA Corps teams are working at FEMA headquarters in Washington, D.C., during their second round. Team Jade 1 hails from Sacramento, California. Its members support daily operations in Congressional Affairs, Strategic Communications, and Public Affairs, divisions that are in FEMA's Office of External Affairs. Teams Gulf 2, Ocean 2, and Summit 2 are all from Vicksburg, Mississippi. Gulf 2 has been hard at work helping FEMA staff maintain a website, stage

meetings, and create and consolidate materials.

Meanwhile, Ocean 2 ramped up preparations for July's Youth Preparedness Council Summit and National Strategy Affirmers Meeting. The team is also working on FEMA's Youth Preparedness programs, like [Student Tools for Emergency Planning \(STEP\)](#) and [Teen Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#). On their days off, corps members volunteer in the D.C. community delivering groceries to retirement homes in partnership with [We Are Family](#). Summit 2 supports Agency-wide mission rehearsal trainings to provide the incident workforce a recurring, continuing education forum to demonstrate and reinforce their knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform their field disaster duties. The team also focuses on leadership training. Are you interested in becoming a FEMA Corps member? Apply for winter 2018 FEMA Corps by November 1 at [nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/fema-corps](http://nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/fema-corps).

## Affirmers Discuss Successful Youth Efforts



*In July 2017, National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education Affirmers shared plans for youth preparedness efforts.*

On July 20, the National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education Affirmers held their annual meeting at the Corporation for National and Community Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. As Affirmers strategized ways to collaborate during this September's National Preparedness Month, they described successful efforts from 2016 activities, such as the [Pillowcase Project](#), [STEP](#), and many others.

Find out how you or your organization can become an Affirmer at [ready.gov/youth-preparedness](http://ready.gov/youth-preparedness).

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

### Youth Preparedness Council Heads to D.C.



*YPC members learned how to use traditional and social media to promote community preparedness efforts.*

FEMA Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) members traveled from across the Nation for the fifth annual YPC Summit on July 18–19. Hosted at FEMA headquarters, nine new council members joined six returning members for leadership development training and to work on projects they can take home to boost community preparedness. Two past YPC members—Angelo DeGraff from Maryland in FEMA Region III and Kiahna Lee Espia from Guam in FEMA Region IX—served as mentors. Team projects focused on [STEP](#), [Teen CERT](#), and media outreach.

New YPC members include:

- Nicole Muñoz-Casaldue (FEMA Region II, Puerto Rico)
- Nyla Howell (FEMA Region III, Maryland)
- Ruben Banks (FEMA Region IV, Mississippi)
- Marcos Rios (FEMA Region IV, Georgia)
- Naomi Winston (FEMA Region VI, Louisiana)
- Hannah Farris (FEMA Region VI, Texas)
- Savannah Huff (FEMA Region VII, Missouri)
- Alissa Hsueh (FEMA Region IX, California)
- Lathan Chatfield (FEMA Region X, Washington)

Serving the second year of their YPC term are:

- Ahjeetha Shankar (FEMA Region I, Connecticut)
- Aahna Ghosh (FEMA Region II, New Jersey)
- Preston Buszka (FEMA Region V, Michigan)
- James Hirsch (FEMA Region VII, Missouri)
- Jerome Dinakar (FEMA Region VIII, Colorado)
- Alex Sun (FEMA Region VIII, Utah)





YPC members got face time with FEMA Administrator Brock Long.

During training sessions, YPC members had the opportunity to meet with National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Affirmers and FEMA leadership, including Administrator Brock Long.

During the summit, YPC members were featured in two Facebook Live events. You can watch the group experiencing an earthquake simulation as part of the [Extreme Event Game](#) at the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. You can also tune in to see council members explain their roles while visiting the

National Portrait Gallery. Find those videos and more in the [video gallery](#).

For more information on the YPC's efforts, visit [ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council](http://ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### National Preparedness Month Is Coming

This year the National Preparedness Month theme is Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can. The theme empowers people to take action. Each week has an individual focus.

- Week 1 is *Make a Plan for Yourself, Family, and Friends*.
- National Prepareathon™ Day is September 15, which falls during week 2. That week's theme is *Plan to Help Your Neighbors and Community*.
- Week 3 is *Practice and Build out Your Plans*.
- The final week encourages people to stay involved in preparedness. The theme is *Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger*.

Want to be a part of it all? Use the hashtags #NatlPrep and #PlanAhead on social media this September to show off what you do to celebrate the month!

Get ideas for how you can get involved at [ready.gov/september](http://ready.gov/september). Go to <https://www.ready.gov/kids> for information on preparedness for youth.



## RESOURCES

### Children Can Be Heroes

**Organization:** The Hero in You Foundation

**Audience:** Young children and their educators, Families of young children

**Topics:** Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Response

**Website:** <https://theheroinyoufoundation.org/>



**Description:** Download videos and worksheets on the 5 Rules for Safety and other important steps for emergency preparedness.

## Easy Emergency Preparedness Steps

**Organization:** American Red Cross

**Audience:** Everyone

**Topic:** Emergency Preparedness Steps

**Website:** <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies>

**Description:** This website gives quick how-to guides and videos on preparing your home for emergencies and finding local training, such as CPR classes.

## Home Fire Safety

**Organization:** American Red Cross

**Audience:** Volunteers, Individuals, Families, Communities

**Topics:** Emergency Preparedness, Safety

**Website:** <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/prevent-home-fire#About>

**Description:** Sign up online to volunteer with your local American Red Cross to install, document, and educate people on fire safety for an upcoming Home Fire Campaign.

## Sesame Street Helps Children Prepare

**Organization:** Sesame Workshop

**Audience:** Children ages 3-5 and their educators, Parents

**Topics:** Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, Power Safety

**Website:** <https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/ready>

**Description:** This webpage offers videos for children to watch about general safety and preparedness, printable guides and worksheets, guides for parents and educators, and links to apps for tablets and smartphones.

## Weather Warnings at a Click

**Organization:** National Weather Service

**Audience:** Everyone

**Topics:** Weather Advisory and Warnings

**Website:** <http://www.weather.gov/>

**Description:** This website gives weather forecasts, advisories, warnings, alerts, air quality, and past weather, and can be viewed at the country, state, or county level.

## CONTACT US

**Email:** [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov)

**Online:** <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

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